

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04552 051340Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 L-03 STR-04 NSC-05 H-01 DHA-02 /058 W
-----051429Z 067153 /50

R 051255Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5882
INFO USDOC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4552

DEPT PASS TREASURY

USDOC FOR BEWT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD,. 74, US
SUBJECT: JOINT US-SOVIET COMMERCIAL COMMISSION

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 4427, (B) STATE 66832

1. HAROLD SCOTT OF US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL TOLD
AMBASSADOR APRIL 4 THAT ON BASIS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS HERE, HE
FEELS SOVIETS ARE CONSIDERING FOUR OPTIONS FOR RESPONDING
TO SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL'S INVITATION TO HOLD JOINT US-SOVIET
COMMERCIAL COMMISSION MEETING IN WASHINGTON, MAY 17-18:

A) DECLINE THE INVITATION ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT
WOULD SERVE LITTLE PURPOSE TO MEET WHEN THERE HAVE BEEN
NO CHANGES IN WHAT THEY VIEW AS BASIC PROBLEM (I.E., US
LEGISLATION);

B) SEND DEPUTY MINISTER MANZHULO ONLY;

C) SEND MANZHULO TO WORKING GROUP SESSION, WITH
POSSIBILITY THAT MINISTER PATOLICHEV WOULD ATTEND COMMISSION
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IF THERE IS PROGRESS THE PREVIOUS WEEK;

D) ACCEPT THE INVITATION IN FULL, SENDING MANZHULO
TO WORKING GROUP AND PATOLICHEV TO COMMISSION MEETINGS.

2. SCOTT SAID HE HAD MET ON HI FIRST DAY IN MOSCOW WITH
USA INSTITUTE DIRECTOR ARBATOV, STATE BANK DIRECTOR

ALKHIMOV AND DEPUTY MINISTERS OF FOREIGN TRADE MANZHULO AND SUSHKOV. ON THE BASIS OF THESE MEETINGS HE THOUGHT SOVIETS WERE INCLINED TO FOURTH OPTION (ACCEPTANCE OF INVITATION). SCOTT INQUIRED OF AMBASSADOR HOW MUCH TIME SOVIETS HAD TO RESPOND TO INVITATION AND WAS TOLD THAT AN EARLY REPLY WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.

3. ACCORDING TO SCOTT, SOVIETS BELIEVE THAT THE PRESIDENT MUST DECLARE HIS VIEW ON TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AT AN EARLY OCCASION. HE STRESSED IT WOULD ALSO BE IMPORTANT FOR THE PRESIDENT TO RECEIVE THE SOVIET CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION WHEN IN WASHINGTON AS THIS IS "CUSTOMARY." HE, HIMSELF, FEARS THAT THERE WILL BE A DOWNTURN IN US-SOVIET TRADE AND SAYS HE HAS BEEN URGING HIS SOVIET DISCUSSANTS HERE NOT TO MIX TRADE WITH POLITICS. THE AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THE SOVIETS NOT BE MISLED ABOUT THE MOOD OF CONGRESS. THEY COULD HELP THE PROCESS OF EASING TRADE RESTRICTIONS BY LETTING OUT SOME REFUSNIKS. ONE DIFFICULTY IS THAT RANKING SOVIETS, LIKE ARBATOV AND AMB. DOBRYNIN, WHO OUGHT TO BE INFORMING THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP ABOUT THE TRUE STATE OF CONDITIONS IN THE US, DO NOT THEMSELVES COMPREHEND WHAT IS TAKING PLACE. SCOTT CONCURRED.

4. SCOTT PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED OF ANY ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION HE MAY PICK UP DURING HIS WEEK'S STAY IN MOSCOW.(HE WAS TO SEE PATOLICHEV ON APRIL 5. ACCORDING TO SCOTT, IT IS ALSO "NORMAL" FOR HIM TO BE RECEIVED BY BREZHNEV WHILE IN MOSCOW, BUT AS YET HE HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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NO APPOINTMENT.)

5. COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, SOME SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED THAT CURRENT POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES COULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON TRADE. NEVERTHELESS, WHILE THIS DOES ON OCCASION INFLUENCE THEIR RHETORIC AND PERHAPS EVEN THEIR COMMERCIAL OUTLOOK, WE BELIEVE THEY WILL CONTINUE TO AVOW "PRINCIPLED" POSITION THAT POLITICS AND TRADE SHOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE. DEPUTY MINISTER SUSHKOV SAID PRECISELY THIS TO E/C COUNSELOR AT APRIL 4 LUNCHEON FOR SCOTT. SUSHKOV ALSO SHOWED HIGHLY REALISTIC AWARENESS OF IMPORTANCE OF CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES IN REMOVING WHAT SOVIETS REGARD AS IMPEDIMENTS TO NORMAL TRADE. WHILE THERE IS NO WAY OF BEING SURE, WE FEEL THAT AS LONG AS ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT APPEAR TO CLOSE DOOR TO POSSIBILITY OF REVISION OF US LEGISLATION, SOVIETS WILL WISH TO ESTABLISH AND KEEP OPEN LINES OF CONTACT WITH NEW US TEAM AND PRESENT THEIR VIEWS DIRECTLY IN WASHINGTON. SHOULD THEY CHOOSE ANYTHING BUT "OPTION 4," HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE INTENDED AS A

WARNING SIGNAL TO US THAT COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WILL
DETERIORATE. AS YET THEY HAVE GIVEN US NO REASON TO
BELIEVE THEY WISH TO GO THAT FAR NOW.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIAL, INVITATIONS, PLANNING MEETINGS, FOREIGN TRADE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW04552
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770118-0367
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770487/aaaacxth.tel
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 4427, 77 STATE 66832
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2894622
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOINT US-SOVIET COMMERCIAL COMMISSION
TAGS: ETRD, US, UR, (SCOTT, HAROLD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/981defa9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009